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The Chat Room

College of Education and Professional Studies Newsletter

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Got News?



Tell us about your professional lives! See pg. 13 for details.

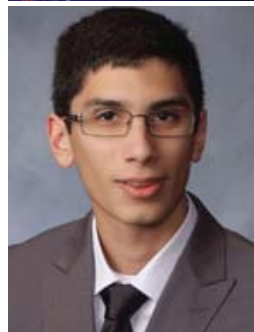
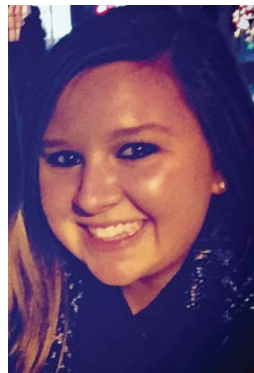
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Spotlight: CEPS undergraduate student research



Pictured is Emma Dvorak (top left), Dani Ault (top right), Brandon Mata (bottom left), and Samantha Potter (bottom right).

Students from Eastern Illinois University's College of Education and Professional Studies take time out of their busy schedules each semester to conduct research in their chosen fields.

The following article is a

series of interviews with four undergraduate students from CEPS: Emma Dvorak, Dani Ault, Brandon Mata, and Samantha Potter

This is an inside look into their research.

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Emma Dvorak: **“Village of Hinsdale Community Wide Needs Assessment”**

1. What is your major, minor, hometown, year in school, etc?

ED: Therapeutic Recreation major; hometown is Aurora, IL; and I am a junior at EIU.

2. What is the title and the purpose of your research?

ED: The title of my research is “Village of Hinsdale Community Wide Needs Assessment.”

The purpose of this study was to gather information about Hinsdale resident’s current usage rates, recreation interests, attitudes towards existing services, and future needs within the Village of Hinsdale’s Parks and Recreation Department in Hinsdale, IL.

3. Who is your current research mentor and how did you become involved with this project?

ED: My research mentor

for this project was Dr. Michael Mulvaney, the course instructor of REC 4740 (Research and Evaluation in Leisure Studies).

I was enrolled in the REC 4740 course in the fall semester of 2015. I conducted this research with a group of other students for my class. After the semester ended, I continued to put in work and help with entering data for this project.

4. Who or what inspired you to pursue your undergraduate research project? Why were you interested in the topic?

ED: This project is an assignment in a required course for my major. However, the work I continued to do after the class was my choice with help from Dr. Mulvaney. I chose to continue this work because I felt as though I had already put in a lot of effort and that



Pictured is Emma Dvorak, a junior Therapeutic Recreation major at Eastern Illinois University.

it would be really interesting to follow it through and see the results.

5. What course work have you taken that has helped you to prepare for this project?

ED: I have taken several other Recreation courses that have talked about needs assessments but it wasn’t until the REC 4740 course that I actually got to help conduct one. This course, along with Dr. Mulvaney, prepared me a lot for this project. Researching Hinsdale, reading articles

Continued on page 3

CEPS undergraduate research

about other research projects and doing a lot of in-class preparation helped me understand what was needed to be done and how to do it.

6. Have you presented or published your research? Where and when? If not, do you plan to?

ED: At the end of the fall 2015 semester, my class and I shared some preliminary results to the director of the Village of Hinsdale Parks and Recreation Department. It was really interesting to see her reaction to the information we had found, and how much the work we did was going to help the department and the village as a community.

Dr. Mulvaney is scheduled to present the final results to the Hinsdale board at a meeting in February 2016.

7. What have you learned during the course of your research about the topic?

ED: This research project has taught me a lot of different things. First, how to work well with others as well as how to share a workload. I was partnered with a fellow classmate, and there is no way this project could have gotten done without a team effort from the whole class.

The project also taught me the importance of needs assessments and how the results are going to be used to make a lot of upcoming decisions in Hinsdale.

8. What have you learned about yourself during the research?

ED: The research class and project taught me that putting a lot of effort into a project this intense and time-consuming definitely pays off and it's great to see all the work put together. It taught me that I am capable of doing a lot of different things if I show a lot of hard work and determination.

This project also made my perceptions of research projects more positive, and showed me that all the hard-work is rewarding in the end.

9. What advice would you give to undergraduate students who want to pursue research? Where should they start?

ED: I would definitely say do not procrastinate. Projects like these take a lot of time and it is really important to give yourself a lot of it.

Also, stay organized and prepare a lot. Start with getting as much information

about the topic as you can - it pays off when you are well educated about your facts and spend a lot of time preparing for the project.

10. What are your future plans with regards to research? Are you thinking about graduate school? How do you think your research will help you in your future?

ED: I would say it's possible that I might come across a research project again someday and I'm really thankful to have had this experience.

I have recently started considering graduate school, and I know having done this project can only benefit me in the future.

This research project will always be something to have on my resume and it's very beneficial that I got to have a real-life experience like this one.

*Undergraduate student interviews
continued on page 4*

Dani Ault: **“Body Image Among College Students: A Commercial Business”**

1. What is your major, minor, hometown, year in school, etc?

DA: Health Studies major; I am from Tolono, IL; and I am a senior at EIU.

2. What is the title and the purpose of your research?

DA: The title of my research is “Body Image Among College Students: A Commercial Business.”

The purpose of this study was to investigate college students’ knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors concerning body image.

3. Who is your current research mentor and how did you become involved with this project?

DA: Dr. Misty Rhoads is my research mentor. I was assigned Dr. Rhoads my first semester back to school last spring for a research methods class. She was so helpful through the whole process and I wouldn’t

be where I am today in the field of research without her.

4. Who or what inspired you to pursue your undergraduate research project? Why were you interested in the topic?

DA: Every day you see people and you can tell that they struggle with their body image and the way it makes them feel. Since I see this on a daily basis I wanted to do more research on the topic to let people know it was more common than not to have those thoughts and feelings towards their own body. I was so interested in learning more because I have also suffered with the way I feel about my own body image.

5. What course work have you taken that has helped you to prepare for this project?

DA: All of the classes I have been taking the last three semesters in the Health Studies Department have helped prepare me for this project. I have had to do a lot of research for many different papers in



Pictured is Danielle Ault, a senior Health Studies major at Eastern Illinois University.

my major and because of that I am always researching different topics.

6. Have you presented or published your research? Where and when? If not, do you plan to?

DA: Yes, I went to St. Charles, IL this past November to present at the IAHPERD (Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance) convention. There were three of us that got invited from my department and we were the only ones in our undergrad program. I am also planning on presenting at the CEPS in February.

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Danielle Ault, a senior Health Studies major at EIU is pictured with her research project at the IAHPERD (Illinois Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance) convention in November 2015.

7. What have you learned during the course of your research about the topic?

DA: I have learned that body image is very common among both men and women of all ages, but especially in college age students. They feel a lot of pressure to look a certain way thanks to society and their peers.

8. What have you learned about yourself during the research?

DA: I have learned to not worry so much what other people think of you and the way you look. I have also learned that if you love yourself and are comfortable in your own skin then it makes it easier for others to love you.

9. What advice would you give to undergraduate students who

want to pursue research? Where should they start?

DA: Advice I would give is to pick a topic they are serious about and want to learn more about. If they don't pick a topic they enjoy, they aren't going to feel passionate about doing their research and have a better chance to slack off.

There is so much to learn when doing research in your undergrad and will help them be more prepared for their internship and jobs later on in life.

Also develop a good relationship with one of their professors because they will be able to help you so much throughout your school career and even after you graduate.

10. What are your future plans with regards to research? Are you

thinking about graduate school? How do you think your research will help you in your future?

DA: I am thinking about going to graduate school here at EIU through the health studies program, but I have not made my decision yet.

My research will help me if I do decide to go to graduate school because I will have the discipline to do research and I will be able to do research on my own without having to rely on someone to help me.

Undergraduate student interviews continued on page 6

Brandon Mata:

“One Person with Passion is better than Forty People Merely Interested: A Survey of Early Childhood Education Teachers’ Job Satisfaction”



Pictured is Brandon Mata, a senior, Early Childhood Special Education major with dual certification in Early Childhood Education at Eastern Illinois University.

1. What is your major, minor, hometown, year in school, etc?

BM: Early Childhood Special Education major with dual certification in Early Childhood Education; I am from Forest View, IL; and I am a senior at EIU.

2. What is the title and the purpose of your research?

BM: The title of my research is “One Person with Passion is better than Forty People Merely Interested: A Survey of Early Childhood Education Teachers’ Job Satisfaction.”

The purpose of my research is to explore and compare job satisfaction ratings across Early Childhood Educators and Early Childhood Special Educators.

3. Who is your current research mentor and how did you become involved with this project?

BM: My research mentor is Dr. Sham’ah Md-Yunus. I became involved with this project after enrollment in one of Dr. Yunus’ classes in a previous semester

4. Who or what inspired you to pursue your undergraduate research project? Why were you interested in the topic?

BM: I was more interested in working on research in general than being specifically involved with the details of the research project. Research has always been an interest of mine. After the topic was developed, I took a greater interest and

have found it to be quite interesting.

5. What course work have you taken that has helped you to prepare for this project?

BM: I have taken a few research-based courses in the Special Education Department that have provided a foundation of skills necessary to aid in the development and implementation of this research project.

6. Have you presented or published your research? Where and when? If not, do you plan to?

BM: We have not had the chance to present our findings yet as we

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CEPS undergraduate research

are still collecting data. However, we have been approved to present at National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in North Carolina April 7-9.

7. What have you learned during the course of your research about the topic?

BM: I have definitely learned how much effort and work goes into developing and creating a research project as well as designing research materials such as surveys or formal letters for our participants. It is very involved and I must say I have been motivated and engaged to participate in every aspect of our study.

8. What have you learned about yourself during the research?

BM: I have learned most of my motivation to collect new information as well as my ability to generalize that information into several aspects of my life.

This experience will most definitely help me learn more about my professional field as well as how I interact in it. As a Special Educator, research must be a constant force that makes an impact on your classroom and your teaching

philosophy and methodology. Everything I learn from this experience will put at a point in my career much farther than I could have ever imagine.

9. What advice would you give to undergraduate students who want to pursue research? Where should they start?

BM: This is an opportunity that should be taken seriously. If you possess a genuine interest in conducting undergraduate research, do it and do it often. Whenever your coursework will allow a study to be factored in, it will only benefit you in the long-run as a professional as well as a person.

Research has a way of educating you in a way that transcends any experience you may have in a classroom. Never limit yourself from the possibilities of branching out as a young professional. Every opportunity like this is an opportunity for personal and professional growth.

10. What are your future plans with regards to research? Are you thinking about graduate school? How do you think your research will help you in your future?

BM: I plan to participate in research for as long as I can. It is an excellent way to supplement my professional experiences in the classrooms here at Eastern Illinois University as well as my own classroom I will have in the coming years.

Graduate school has always been a goal of mine to be fulfilled when I find time.

The research conducted this semester will paint a vivid picture of what is to come as a teacher, but future research will open to the doors to much more useful information.

*Undergraduate student interviews
continued on page 8*

Samantha Potter: “Linking Literacy with Science using CCSS, NGSS, and Evidence Based Practices”

1. What is your major, minor, hometown, year in school, etc?

SP: Special Education major; I am from Crystal Lake, IL; and I am a senior at EIU.

2. What is the title and the purpose of your research?

SP: The title of my research is “Linking Literacy with Science using CCSS, NGSS, and Evidence Based Practices.

The purpose of this research was to find different evidence-based practices used within education and ways to link them within the science and literacy. These skills should be evident within CCSS and NGSS.

3. Who is your current research mentor and how did you become involved

with this project?

SP: Mrs. April Flood was my research mentor. During my second year at EIU I was invited to join Kappa Delta Pi, an honor fraternity in education. During my first year I was elected to be on the board. My second year being a part of KDP I was elected co-president. Every two years KDP holds a national convocation where educators are picked to present their research in education. During this time Mrs. Flood, Dr. Revens, Dr. Paulson, and myself were picked to present our research.

4. Who or what inspired you to pursue your undergraduate research project? Why were you interested in the topic?



Pictured is Samantha Potter, a senior, Special Education major at Eastern Illinois University.

SP: Mrs. Flood, Dr. Revens, Dr. Paulson are the teachers that encouraged me to conduct research and present at KDP national convocation. My mentors encouraged me to pick a subject that I was passionate about to research. The special education staff inspired me to conduct research on evidence-based practices and how to link them to standards.

5. What course work have you taken that has helped you to prepare for this project?

SP: The course work I have taken within the Special

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CEPS undergraduate research

Education Department has helped prepare me for this research project. All of the courses within Special Education require you to support your answers with research.

In addition, we were required to complete multiple research projects within our course work. All of the professors have taught us the proper way to research, what is a good source, and the importance of research.

6. Have you presented or published your research? Where and when? If not, do you plan to?

SP: I presented my research at KDP 50th Biennial Convocation in Orlando Florida. This is a national education conference that is held every two years. At each conference educators are hand selected to present their research to educators from all around the world.

7. What have you learned during the course of your research about the topic?

SP: There are many different things that I learned throughout the course of this research. During the course of this research I gained a

better understanding of the content of CCSS and the NGSS. I learned how these standards were created, who created and the purpose and reasoning behind these standards.

Another thing that I learned was different evidence based practices that are used in education and research that proved them to be effective. Lastly, I learned how to link these standard to evidence based practices using activities that will engage my students while helping increase their performances in science and literacy.

8. What have you learned about yourself during the research?

SP: I learned that education is a passion of mine. I love learning new thing about education and ways to better my student's education. I will be learning for the rest of my life and having a passion for learning makes research fun and something I look forward to.

9. What advice would you give to undergraduate students who want to pursue research? Where should they start?

SP: If there is a topic that interest you and you want to learn more about this topic, talk to your professors. Finding a good mentor is key. I found a mentor that shared the same passion about education that I did and worked with me everyday on this research project. Finding a mentor that supports you will make a huge impact on your research.

10. What are your future plans with regards to research? Are you thinking about graduate school? How do you think your research will help you in your future?

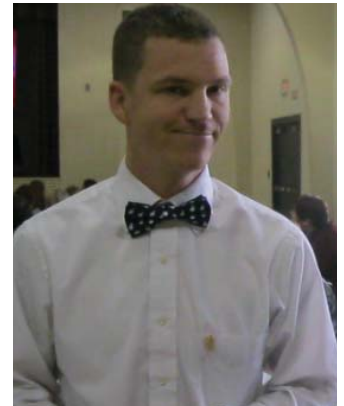
SP: I plan to attend graduate school within the future. I plan to work within a school as a special education teacher for a couple of years first. I plan to continue research different educational topics that will help me to better my education and my student's learning. Hopefully one of these interests will guide me within graduate school.

2015 Special Education Scholarships

Bethany Hutson, a senior Special Education major, is the recipient of the 2015 David Glen Coon Memorial Scholarship.



Jacob Fryman, a senior Special Education and Secondary Education major, was awarded the Robert G. Buzzard Presidential Memorial Scholarship for 2015.



Michelle Roberts, a graduate student in the Special Education Department, was named the 2015 recipient of the Dr. Robert Zabka Special Education Scholarship.



Audrey Barc, a senior Special Education major, was named the recipient of the 2015 Telefund Award.

Kaitlyn Lacy, a senior Special Education major, is the recipient of the 2015 Errett and Mazie Warner Special Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded annually to an individual in that academic year who has demonstrated outstanding scholarship, leadership, and service in special education.



Jessica Nolen, a senior Special Education major, was awarded the 2015 Telefund Award.



Josie Winner, a junior Special Education major, was named the recipient of then Iva P. Miller Special Education Memorial Scholarship for 2015.



Chelsea Ward, a senior Special Education major, was awarded the 2015 Telefund Award.

2015 Outstanding Foundation Member



Pictured on the right is Dr. Carol Helwig accepting her 2015 Honorary Lifetime Member award. Photo and information provided by EIU.

In October Dr. Carol Helwig was awarded the title of Eastern Illinois University's 2015 Outstanding Foundation Member at EIU's Foundation Annual Meeting.

The EIU Foundation established the Outstanding Foundation Member award in 2009, and the award is presented to individuals who provide exemplary service to the Foundation, according to a University press release.

Helwig served as a faculty member for 33 years and department chair for 12 at EIU. She dedicated herself to helping students become outstanding teachers. She particularly represented EIU to students in the east-central Illinois area, who though place-

bound, wanted to become teachers and Helwig had the vision to provide EIU programs to reach those students.

In 2008 she received the EIU Foundation Outstanding Annuitant Ambassador of the Year. After her retirement in 2002 she served on the ECE/ELE/MLE Advisory Board for the Department of Early Childhood, Elementary and Middle Level Education, providing institutional history and current national perspectives.

Helwig is past president of the East Central Illinois Reading Council and has a variety of experience with advisory boards and committees- both establishing and serving on these committees.

Class Notes

1980s



Bill Lamkey '82 BS PED, was named the winner of the Friend of the County award by the Sangamon County Principals Association. Lamkey is a retired Riverton principal following the 2014-2015 school year. He is currently working part-time for the Sangamon-Menard Regional Office of Education's alternative education programs.

1990s



Denise Anderson '93 MS in Physical Education, will take on her new position as associate dean for undergraduate studies in the College of Behavioral, Social, and Health Sciences at Clemson University in South Carolina in July. Anderson is currently a professor and graduate coordinator in the Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Management at Clemson University. She has worked at the university since 2003.

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Class Notes

1990s continued



Steve Noble '93 MS Ed EDA, is the new superintendent of Seaman School District USD 345 in Topeka, Kansas. Noble is currently the superintendent of Hillsboro USD 410 in Hillsboro, Kansas. He will take on his new role in July.

Dan Mueller '93 BS Ed, '02 MS in ELE, was named the 2015-2016 Teacher of the Year. Mueller has been teaching for 22 years and is currently a teacher at Tillman Elementary School in Kirkwood, Missouri. He has taught for 11 years at Tillman Elementary School.



John Davenport '95, MS Ed Guidance and Counseling, was named the acting dean of students at Illinois State University in Normal, IL. Davenport took on his new role on January 4. He has been a member of the Dean of Students Office for 10 years and has served as an assistant to the dean of students and, most recently, as associate dean of students.



Pat Minasian '99, BS Ed ELE, '05' MS Ed EDA, '14 EDS EDA, is the new superintendent for Washington School District 52 in Washington, IL. Minasian will step into his new position in July. Currently, he is finishing his third year as a principal at Lincoln Grade School in District 52.

2000s

Cassandra Niemerg '12, BS Ed ELE, married Dexter Hille on Aug. 1, 2015. Currently, Niemerg is a fourth grade teacher at Sacred Heart School in Effingham, IL. Dexter works for Ameren Illinois.



Andrew Turner '14, MS Ed EDA, is the new assistant principal at Monticello High School in Monticello, IL. Turner will step into his new position during the next school year. He has been an instructor at Monticello High School for nine years, and a coach at various levels for 20 years.



Look out for the April edition of "The Chat Room" where the 2016 EIU CEPS Alumni Award recipients will be announced



The April "Chat Room" will also feature the research of CEPS graduate students

Got News?



Are you or someone you know an Alumni of the College of Education and Professional Studies? Is there information you would like to share?

Email us at cepsnews@eiu.edu

We want to know what is going on in your professional lives!